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The Chat Room

College of Education and Professional Studies Newsletter

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CEPS Alumni Awards

Nominate an Alumnus

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CEPS Dean's Office shows panther pride for EIU Homecoming 2014



Pictured are a few of the many Homecoming 2014 decorations that were displayed in the CEPS Dean's Office.

Oct. 25 marked another successful homecoming for students, staff, and administration of the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Eastern Illinois University's homecoming theme was "Bright Lights, Blue City," and the CEPS Dean's Office wore their school spirit proudly by competing in the university's "Real Panthers Decorate Blue" office/department decorating contest. The CEPS

Dean's Office was covered in panther blue utilizing the university's homecoming theme, and sported three homecoming murals designed by students from area elementary schools (Riddle Elementary School in Mattoon, IL; Williams Elementary School in Mattoon, IL; and Carl Sandburg Elementary School in Charleston, IL). This was the second year that students crafted murals specifically for CEPS.

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Homecoming 2014



Photos on the top left: Homecoming 2014 decorations from the CEPS Dean's Office and from tent city.



"It was nice to work with our partner schools to have their students participate," said Dr. Diane Jackman, Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies. "They are an important part of what we do and we can't do what we do without them."

Jackman said each year for homecoming the office staff and administration collaborate to come up with ideas to decorate the dean's office by incorporating the university's homecoming theme.

"Those working in the office wanted to be part of the homecoming celebration," Jackman said. "Every year we work as a team and it makes us proud to be part of Eastern."

Although CEPS did not take home the first place award for the decorating contest, Jackman said it is not about winning, it is about coming together to show pride for the university.

"In our minds we already won," Jackman said. "We had a good time and got to work with the K-12 schools involved--what more can you ask for? We may not have won EIU's prize, but we won our own."

Not only did CEPS participate in the homecoming decorating contest, but the dean's office was also a staple in tent city, where alumni had an opportunity to catch up with CEPS students, staff, and administration.

"Homecoming was fabulous," Jackman said. "We had a lot of alumni come back and it was great to talk with them to see what they have been up to since graduation."

EIU'S Homecoming 2015 is scheduled for the week of Oct. 23-25.

"We hope alumni can come back to Eastern again in October to join in the fun and festivities," Jackman said.

More Homecoming 2014 photos continued on page 3



Students from Riddle Elementary School in Mattoon, IL, made a mural designed specifically for the CEPS department.



Three homecoming murals were designed for the CEPS by students from area elementary schools (Riddle Elementary School in Mattoon, IL; Williams Elementary School in Mattoon, IL; and Carl Sandburg Elementary School in Charleston, IL).



Homecoming 2014



On Oct. 25 CEPS alumni celebrated Homecoming 2014 and had an opportunity to catch up with CEPS students, staff, and administration at tent city.

Ten students embark on first semester in new ACE program



Pictured is Dr. Carrie Johnson and students during the Introduction to Adult and Community Education class. Dr. Johnson teaches Introduction to Adult and Community Education every Monday, which is the first class offered for the ACE program.

Eastern Illinois University is now home to the first Adult and Community Education (ACE) program in Illinois.

As a part of EIU's Department of Secondary Education and Foundations, the purpose of the ACE program is to train undergraduate students in developing, providing, and leading educational efforts in a variety of non-school settings, such as: community agencies, nonprofit organizations, government initiatives, and the business sector, according to Dr. Stephen Lucas, Chair of the Department of Secondary Education and Foundations at EIU.

"Many students are interested in

gaining the specific skills offered in this program and applying them in settings that enable people of all ages to learn and improve their lives," Lucas said. "As the first undergraduate program of this type in Illinois, students will now be able to gain these skills and apply them immediately after graduation without having to wait to go through a graduate-level program, which is the typical situation now."

Spring 2014 marked the first ACE class offered at Eastern, Introduction to ACE, which ten students are currently enrolled in.

Students who graduate from the program are qualified for jobs that provide adult learning

opportunities, such as: parks and recreation programs, enrichment and special interest programs, after-school programs for tutoring and mentoring school-age children needing additional educational supports, human resources training, developing curriculum for organizations wishing to start educational efforts, and working in community and non-profit agencies providing social and educational services in non-school settings.

"We plan to keep recruiting on an ongoing basis, Lucas said. The Eastern students currently enrolled in the ACE program are anticipated to graduate in December 2015.

KSS student earns national recognition for baton twirling



Nicola Colucy, a sophomore sports management major at Eastern Illinois University, is pictured on the middle left at the Intermediate Miss Majorette of Illinois and on the right at the 45th Annual America's Youth on Parade National Baton Twirling Competition.

Since four-years-old, Nicola Colucy, a sophomore sports management major at Eastern Illinois University, has been hard at work mastering the sport of baton twirling.

From July 22-26, Colucy competed at the 45th Annual America's Youth on Parade National Baton Twirling Competition at the University of

Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., where she placed 13th all-around, sixth in solo, and fourth in X-Strut.

Colucy has been competing in baton twirling events since she was seven-years-old, and said her proudest moments to date in the sport was winning the national medal, and earning the title of Intermediate Miss Majorette of Illinois on June 1.

"I have been trying for that title (Intermediate Miss Majorette of Illinois) for over 10 years and it is a very competitive event," Colucy said. "I was thrilled to earn that title."

For Colucy, winning the national title was even more rewarding due to the many obstacles that she has had to overcome.

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National recognition

At two-years-old, Colucy was diagnosed with Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD), an auditory disability. Although, Colucy could hear normally, CAPD made it difficult for her to process the information that she heard. Colucy said this was because her ears and brain did not fully sync together.

"I have overcome a lot of obstacles in achieving this title," Colucy said. "It's hard work, requires lots of practice, long hours

in hot gyms, and it is harder than it looks."

Not only is Colucy currently an EIU student and a national title holder, she is the Feature Twirler for the EIU Panther Marching Band, and an assistant coach for the Twirling Twisters Baton Corp in Arlington Heights, IL.

Colucy said she has always loved baton twirling and competing, but said her favorite part is being a role model for future generations who

share her admiration for the sport.

"I get to share my love of this sport with other young girls by being an assistant and private baton coach, and being an ambassador for this sport here at EIU as the Feature Twirler," Colucy said. "This is probably the most rewarding for me to have the opportunity to be a role model for other girls in hopes that this tradition will continue for many years to come."

Special education major wins ICEC award



Mallory Kowaleski, a senior special education major, won the ICEC Dean S. Hage Student of the Year Award on Nov. 8.

The Illinois Council for Exceptional Children Dean S. Hage Student of the Year Award was presented to Mallory Kowaleski, a senior special education major at Eastern Illinois University.

Kowaleski received the award on Nov. 8 at the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children Fall Convention-Ray Graham Memorial Luncheon in Naperville, IL. Kowaleski won the award for her outstanding service and leadership to the Illinois Student Council for Exceptional Children, Illinois Council for Exceptional Children, and to students with exceptionalities in Illinois.

"This award is a reminder, a reminder that anyone, including myself, can make a difference," Kowaleski said. "I never thought that I

would one day be nominated for or receive an award like this. When I started volunteering and helping run various organizations on campus, I did so because I wanted to make a difference in someone's life, whether it be a college student or an individual with an exceptionality."

Kowaleski was nominated for the award by Sandra Johnson, a special education instructor at EIU, who said Kowaleski emulates what a young educator should be.

"I have been a special education teacher since I was 20 and you get a gut feeling when you see someone that will make the teaching profession proud," Johnson said. "She is outstanding and has a way about her with children and adults with disabilities."

The Friday Club gains in popularity



Pictured are members of "The Friday Club" and volunteers from EIU. The club was founded in May 2013 as a way to connect adults with disabilities in Coles County to the university and community.

For Sandra Johnson, a special education instructor at Eastern Illinois University, starting "The Friday Club" in May 2013 was a way to connect adults with disabilities in Coles County to the university and community.

"It's just a little club that I started for those with disabilities," Johnson said. "I feel that they are sometimes forgotten in the community."

Every Friday, except for university scheduled breaks, EIU student volunteers get together with individuals from CTF Illinois and the Blumenthal Center, both in Charleston, and play games, read books, and socialize.

When the weather is nice

"The Friday Club" members and volunteers walk around Morton Park in Charleston, and when temperatures start to drop members meet at the Charleston Carnegie Public Library, where they have their own room reserved.

"I wanted to do something special just for them," Johnson said. "This is a club just for them. It's not about us."

Johnson said "The Friday Club" also helps to improve the social skills of the adults with disabilities who participate in the club by interacting with other people besides their caregivers.

Although "The Friday Club" was founded more than a year ago, it

just started gaining in popularity this year. Johnson said the club started out small and now has up to anywhere from eight to 10 regular club members, and five to nine EIU volunteers.

"They love EIU and they love the attention the students are giving them," Johnson said. "I'm not sure who gets more out of this club, them or us."

Johnson said the club is always looking for volunteers from EIU (all majors are welcome) and community members. Those who are interested in volunteering or learning more about the club can contact Johnson at sjohnson2@eiu.edu.

Run Away Cancer! fundraiser for CSD office manager shatters goal



Pictured in the center of the photo is Wendy Lane, the office manager for the Department of Counseling and Student Development at EIU, who was surrounded by family and friends during the Run Away Cancer! 5K Fun Run and Walk fundraiser on Oct. 4.

Wendy Lane, office manager for the Department of Counseling and Student Development at Eastern Illinois University, is looked at by many as the glue of the CSD department. Unfortunately, in May of this year Lane was diagnosed with breast cancer and has since taken time off from her position at EIU to seek treatment.

Members of EIU's Chi Sigma Iota, the international honor society for students, professional counselors and counselor educators, wanted to show their support for Lane by

putting on the Run Away Cancer! 5K Fun Run and Walk, with all proceeds benefiting Lane and her family.

The fundraiser took place on Oct. 4, where 201 participants decked out in pink made their way around EIU's panther trail in support of Lane.

"It was very successful," said Rebecca Miller, the fundraiser coordinator and social chair of Chi Sigma Iota. "It was awesome to see so many people who came out

to support Wendy. It was better than I could have ever imagined it would be, and that was all from the impact Wendy has had on people."

Miller said before the race she set a goal in hopes of raising \$1,000 for Lane and her family, however, that goal was shattered when donations poured in at a final dollar amount of \$7,188. All proceeds from the race were presented to Lane and her family, which Lane said will help with medical expenses.

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Members of EIU's Chi Sigma Iota (pictured above) hosted the fundraiser for Wendy Lane and raised \$7,188.

Run Away Cancer!

Although Lane had registered for the race, her health made it hard to walk or run, but she still participated by cheering on attendees from a golf cart.

"I felt very surprised, very blessed, and loved," Lane said. "I knew the majority of those who attended and it was wonderful to see the number of family, friends, church family, and co-workers who came out to show their support."

The generosity and kindness that members of the EIU and Charleston community of shown during this difficult time is something Lane said she feels thankful for and will never forget.

"God answers prayers and provides when there is a need,"

Lane said. "When Dr. Heidi Larson (an associate professor in the CSD department) called me to ask if I was OK with the students having the run/walk, I was so touched it brought me to tears and I was speechless. We have wonderful students in our department and I have had the privilege of working with them and getting to know them on a personal level as well, but this act of kindness goes above and beyond anything I could imagine. I know how very busy they are with classes and internships, so for them to take the time to do this was truly amazing. It speaks very highly of the character and hearts of our students."



201 participants decked out in pink made their way around EIU's panther trail in support of Wendy Lane during the Run Away Cancer! 5K Fun Run and Walk.

Class Notes

1970s

Ken Klipp '71, BSEd in Physical Education, and **'72** MEd in Physical Education, was recognized by Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee, IL, by having a race named in his honor. Bishop McNamara High School officials put on the first Ken Klipp Classic on Aug. 23. The 5K run/2 mile walk was dedicated to Klipp for his service as a coach and teacher at the high school, in addition to founding the school's cross-country program in 1980.



Morrie Reece '72, BS in PED, and **'09** Doctor of Public Service, was inducted into the Tuscola Alumni Association Hall of Fame in Sept. In 1982 Reece started working for Apple Computers in the company's education division before retiring as the senior educational executive for Apple in 2011.



1980s

Tisa Mason '84, MEd in Guidance and Counseling, was named the new president of Valley City State University in Valley City, ND. Before moving into her new role, Mason was the vice president for student affairs at Fort Hays State University in Hays, KS.



1990s

Andy Kistler '92, BSEd in Special Education, is the new Executive Director for ARC Community Support Systems' Board of Directors. Previously, Kistler worked as the Director of Community Employment Services at ARC Community Support Systems, and he also taught special education at the middle school and high school levels.



John Biernbaum '94, MEd in Guidance and Counseling, was presented with the 2014 Honorary Alumni Award by Western Illinois University on Sept. 25. The award was given to Biernbaum for his service to the WIU community. Biernbaum is the associate vice president for student services at WIU.

2000s

Bob Dudolski '00, MEd in Guidance and Counseling, was honored with the Texas State University Foundations of Excellence award on Oct. 29. The award recognizes faculty and staff who make an impact on the lives of students, the community, and the university. Dudolski is the Assistant Dean of Students at Texas State University in San Marcos, TX.



Class Notes

2000s continued

Cheryl Beverage '02, MEd in Educational Administration, married Bryan Headrick on Oct. 11. She is a third-grade teacher at Riddle Elementary School in Mattoon, IL.



Jennifer Smith '04, BSEd in Elementary Education, '07 MEd in Elementary Education, was one of the 12 finalists for the 2015 Illinois Teacher of the Year award. Smith teaches eighth-grade language arts and science at Monticello Middle School in Monticello, IL.



Pam French '05, MS in College Student Affairs, is the new admissions representative for Lake Land College in Mattoon, IL. French accepted the position at Lake Land College in July. Previously, she worked as an admission counselor and a coordinator of recruitment at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in Edwardsville, IL.

Kimmy Anderson '09, BS in Physical Education, married Nick Nasti on Sept. 13 at Willoughby Farm in Collinsville, IL. She is currently employed as the shelter manager for Gateway Pet Guardians, a nonprofit animal shelter in St. Louis, MO. The couple met at EIU.



Sarah Smith '09, MEd in Elementary Education, was named Educator of the Year by the Decatur Public Schools Foundation office on Nov. 15. Smith is the instructional coach for Decatur Public Schools in Decatur, IL, where she works closely with teachers at Dennis Lab School. Previously, Smith taught fourth-grade and fifth-grade at Johns Hill Magnet School in Decatur, IL.

Abby Morstatter '10, BSEd in Elementary Education, married Michael Holcomb on June 28 in Streator, IL. She is a fourth-grade teacher at Cornell Grade School in Cornell, IL. The couple dated for eight years before getting married.



Class Notes

2000s continued

Destiny Lee '13, BSEd in Health Studies, won the title of Miss Black Illinois USA 2015 on Oct. 25. She also holds the title of Miss Black DuPage County USA 2015. Lee is currently employed as the coordinator for PATH Afterschool program in Glendale Heights, IL.



Tyler Fuchs '13, BS in Kinesiology and Sports Studies, was named the new golf and facilities supervisor for Des Plaines Park District in Des Plaines, IL. Previously, Fuchs worked in event sales and event management for Brunswick.



Click here to nominate an EIU CEPS Alumnus for the 2015 Alumni Awards



Who will be the 2015 recipients?

Nominations are due December 10, 2014

Nominate an EIU CEPS alumnus at:

www.eiu.edu/cepsalumni/machform/view.php?id=1



Got News?

Are you or someone you know an Alumni of the College of Education and Professional Studies? Is there information you would like to share?

Email us at cepsnews@eiu.edu

We want to know what is going on in your professional lives!